PFLAG
Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

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Keeping Families Strong **August, 2003**

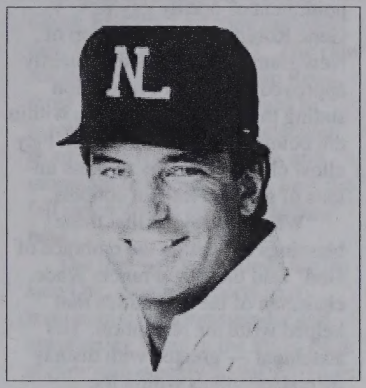
Dave Pallone Scheduled to Speak September 16

Former major league baseball umpire Dave Pallone will be the featured speaker at the September PFLAG chapter meeting.

Dave worked for eighteen years as a professional umpire, ten of which were with the National Baseball League. As the third youngest umpire in baseball history, Dave demonstrated courage, professionalism and the ability to stand in the middle of adversity through many of baseball's high profile and controversial events.

He is the author of the 1990 New York Times's best-selling autobiography, *Behind the Mask: My Double Life in Baseball*, which offers a revealing look at baseball through the eyes of a gay man.

Dave has given over 700 interviews for television, radio and print media. He has been a frequent guest on "Larry King Live," and has appeared on "The Phil Donahue Show," "The Today Show" and several others. Dave hosted his own sports radio talk show in Boston, Massachusetts, and has also contributed feature articles to *The Rochester Diversity Council, NY Newsday* and *USA Today*. He has been a keynote speaker at conferences, diversity trainer on sexual orientation for corporations, and has brought his work on sexual orientation sensitivity to hundreds of university and college campuses.



Dave Pallone

Making history on October 11, 1995, Dave and tennis great Martina Navratilova appeared on stage together for a candid conversation at the University of Massachusetts,

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You are inspirational, motivational, and universal in your appeal."
- Harvard University

AUGUST PFLAG CHAPTER MEETING

TUESDAY
SEPTEMBER 16
7:00 P.M.

Speaker:

Dave Pallone

THE DWELLING PLACE

508 NORTH TEJON STREET

Lavender Film Festival September 19-21

Colorado Springs PFLAG has made a donation to support the Fourth Annual Lavender Film Festival scheduled to take place at the Fine Arts Center September 19-21. Tickets are still available at Wag'n Wash, Spice of Life, and by calling 38-MOVIE. View the film schedule at www.pplff.org.

Festival organizer Alma Cremonesi explained at our August PFLAG meeting that the festival, like other nonprofit organizations, is experiencing a shortfall in donations compared to previous years. To ensure the success of this wonderful yearly event, it is essential that supporters make donations and/or attend the festival. Purchase your festival pass now! You can also come to the box office during the festival and purchase a ticket for a single film ($10 per film or $20 for the opening night film and party).

Great Idea.: Creatively support the festival by purchasing one or two tickets and giving them to Tasha Hill at Inside/Out Youth Services to enable some of the youth to attend the festival who otherwise might not be able to participate. Tasha's phone number is 328-1056.

Newsletter published by the Colorado Springs Chapter of PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays).

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The Colorado Springs Chapter of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays is a non-profit, community-based organization not affiliated with any ethnic, religious, educational, counseling, business or political group. Our purpose is to support and educate families to better understand homosexuality and to provide the community with information and insights gained through our experience and study.

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To join the chapter and receive the newsletter regularly, complete and mail the membership form on page four. To receive complimentary copies of the newsletter, or if you have information to be included in the newsletter, comments or suggestions, please call Karen Flitton at 634-4433.

The next newsletter deadline is October 1, 2003.

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E-mail us at CSPFLAG@aol.com

Website: www.tde.com/~pflagcos

PFLAG National Office website: http://www.pflag.org

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Please Always Remember that our PFLAG meetings are ...

Confidential.

Episcopal Church Supports Gay Unions

At the General Convention in Minneapolis in August, Episcopal Church leaders confirmed the appointment of openly gay Rev. V. Gene Robinson, 56, as bishop of New Hampshire, and subsequently approved a landmark resolution stating that local dioceses are within the bounds of the church when they allow clergy members to bless unions of gay and lesbian couples.

"What this says is that these blessings are within the embrace of God" said the Rev. Francis Wade, chairman of the committee that helped write the resolution. His statement — greeted with dismay by conservatives within the church— was intended to clear up a semantic disagreement that had clouded debate over the resolution.

The question was whether the resolution simply acknowledged that blessings of same-sex unions took place, or went so far as to confirm the blessings' dontrinal soundness.

Supporters of the resolution, approved after a brief but heated debate by the House of Deputies, made up of more than 800 clergy members and lay people, said the measure sends a powerful message of openness to gay men and lesbians of all faiths.

The Rev. Michael Hopkins, the president of Integrity, a group of gay and lesbian Episcopalians, said the decision will encourage more priests to conduct such rites and will free more bishops to formally permit such blessings.

Conservative Opposition

The Rev. Donald Armstrong, the Rector of downtown Grace Church and St. Stephens Parish in Colorado Springs, which includes St. Stephen's School for children in kindergarten through 8th grade, joined those at the General Convention who protested the approval of Bishop Robinson and the passage of the resolution on same-sex unions. He was quoted in both the *New York Times* and the Colorado Springs *Gazette* with respect to his

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Pallone

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Amherst. It was the first time that two prominent, openly gay people in professional sports appeared on stage. He was also featured in the December, 1998 ESPN documentary "Homophobia in Sports" and and was a recent guest on BBC Radio.

Through his diversity work with corporations, universities and a variety of organizations, Dave has made a significant contribution to society by educating and enlightening people in the reality of sexual orientation. He sheds light on this not-so-openly-discussed topic that demands immediate attention in the workplace and on campus.

In Memoriam

Our sympathy and loving thoughts go to PFLAG chapter member Elaine Myers, whose brother passed away unexpectedly last month, and also to Jerry Raymond, who has written to us from Florida to let us know that his mother passed away last November.

Jerry is moving back to Colorado in October, so we'll be looking forward to seeing him again soon.

Episcopal Church Supports Unions

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position. "My position [is] that our response to homosexuals ought to be pastoral, confessional and redemptive, not to offer blessing of same-sex relationships when treatment might be the prudent and healing route to take," Armstrong said. He continued, "The whole homosexual lifestyle denies natural law and God's ordinance. (Gays and lesbians) want to go to churches because they want to eliminate that sense of guilt. The only way to do that is through repentance, but then they'd have to admit their lifestyle is a sin."

The *Gazette* has reported that Grace Church may permit members who agree with Rev. Armstrong's stand to require that no portion of their contributions to the church be transmitted to the national organization of the Episcopal Church because of its support of the GLBT community.

Bishop-elect Robert O'Neill, who will replace Jerry Winterrowd as bishop of Colorado in January, has said he favors the blessing of same-sex unions. Winterrowd was among those who voted in favor of the resolutions at the convention.

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Note: Father Armstrong's comments mirror the statements made by Focus on the Family on these issues. Members of the church have been quoted in recent newspaper stories as supporting same-sex unions, indicating that a healthy dialogue is continuing within the congregation. If you are a member of the church, please consider this an opportunity to participate in that dialogue and to express your commitment to the GLBT community.

- Editor

Inside/Out News

Bike Ride: Inside/Out Youth Services is sponsoring the Cripple Creek Fall Fat Tire Ride on Saturday, September 27, 2003. The ride follows the old Gold Camp Road, most of which is now closed to automobiles, through spectacular front range rock formations and mountain meadows. With luck the fall aspen colors could be at their peak.

The ride will raise funds for Inside/Out, which supports gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender and questioning teens in the Pikes Peak region with weekly social activities and discussion groups.

Suggested donation for ride participants is $35. Riders who raise/donate at least $35 will receive an Inside/Out t-shirt. Riders who raise/donate at least $100 will receive both a t-shirt and Inside/Out hat (and the director's undying gratitude!). Let's get PFLAGgers out on bikes. Drivers needed too.

Awards Dinner: The second annual awards dinner honoring Inside/Out donors and volunteers will be held on Saturday, October 11th in the banquet room at the center opened earlier this year by the Gay and Lesbian Fund for Colorado at 315 East Costilla. This is a major fundraiser for the organization, which continues to provide much-needed support for our GLBTQ youth.

Silent Auction donations are welcomed. Cocktails and the Silent Auction begin at 6 p.m., with dinner, keynote speaker and awards to follow.

The cost of the dinner is $45 per person for early registrants (before September 22) and $55 after that date. If you are interested in learning more about Inside/Out, this is the best opportunity of the year to get acquainted. For more information, call 328-10546 or go towww. InsideOutYS.org.

Freedom to Marry Movement Schedules Training Event

Cartoons by Hugh & Eva's son Patrick McGeehan, visiting from Washington D.C. at the August PFLAG meeting.

A coalition of organizations including the ACLU, Freedom to Marry, Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders, Human Rights Coalition, Lambda Legal

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BULLETIN BOARD

Sept. 16—PFLAG Meeting, Speaker, Dave Pallone
7:00 p.m., The Dwelling Place, 508 North Tejon Street
Sept 19-21—4th Annual Lavender Film Festival, Colorado Springs
Call (719) 38-movie or go to www. pplff.org
Sept. 27—Cripple Creek Fall Fat Tire Ride
Benefit ride for Inside/Out Youth Services. Ride from Cripple Creek to Colorado Springs along Gold Camp Road. 9:30 a.m. start. Everyone welcome. For more information call 328-1056.
October 5—Solidarity Sunday. For more information, www.dignityusa.org
October 11—Inside/Out Second Annual Awards Dinner
Gay and Lesbian Fund for Colorado, 315 East Costilla, 6:00 p.m.
October 25—Gay & Gray in the West—2nd Annual Conference (Denver)
This is the event that addresses LGBT issues infuluding housing, health, legal, spirituality, communities of color, finances and more. Evening gala at Adams Mark Hotel will feature Hazel Miller. Conference fees $45—$55 if paid in advance. More information to come in PFLAG August newsletter. You may also call (303) 380-2342 or go to http://www.gayandgrayinthewest.org
Nov. 5-9—16th Annual Creating Change Conference
Sponsored by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. Miami Beach, Florida. For more information for to www.creatingchange.org..

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Defense, NCLR and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force will participate in presenting a Pre-Conference Institute on Marriage in Miami Beach, Florida on November 6, 2003, in conjunction with the 16th Annual Creating Change Conference. The focus of the institute is to empower states that want to make marriage work a priority, even as our own rural Colorado Representative Marilyn Musgrave is promoting in Congress her plan to amend the U.S. Constitution to prohibit states from recognizing gay marriage. For more information, go to www.freedomtomarry.org

What is ... Solidarity Sunday?

Solidarity Sunday began in 1995 when the Board of Directors of Dignity/USA recognized that 70-80% of American Catholics supported equal rights for gays and lesbians. It was decided to invite these people to join in solidarity to work to end verbal and physical abuse.

The first Solidarity Sunday was observed on October 8 that year, and approximately 35,000 participated. The project rapidly expanded to include people from all denominations and organizations.

Solidarity Sunday is held on the last Sunday before Coming Out Day (October 11) each year. On that day (and for some time before and afterward) supports wear a small red lapel ribbon to show that they have pledged to work for civil and human rights for all people, including gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgenders.

More information and red ribbons will be available at the September PFLAG meeting.

KEEPING FAMILIES STRONG

A membership in PFLAG extends a helping hand to families who have gay members; provides educational material for families and the public; and offers a family voice that stands for equality and justice for all human beings. You can join at any time of the year. The current membership year extends from October 1, 2002 to September 30, 2003.

Name(s) of Member(s): _____

_____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ **Zip Code:** _____

Home Phone: _____ **Work Phone:** _____

e-mail: _____

Membership includes newsletter

____New member ____Renewing member	
____Low Income	$5.00—$10.00
____Individual	$ 20
____Household	$30
____Supporting	$ 60
____Other Contribution	$_____
____Gift Membership (includes newsletter)	$ 10
Total	$_____

Make checks payable to Colorado Springs PFLAG and mail to P.O. Box 10076, Colorado Springs, CO 80932. Membership fee and contributions are tax deductible. All information will remain confidential. PFLAG is a 501(C) 3 nonprofit organization. If you need a receipt for tax purposes, please call 650-2480